

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, **Xu Cao, Xingming Shi and Shuting Bai**, hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our names, we believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled, ***The Interaction of Smad6 with Hox Proteins and Uses Thereof***; the specification of which is attached hereto and which claims benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Serial No. 60/147,161, filed August 4, 1999, now abandoned.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. We acknowledge the duty to disclose all information we know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

We hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Dr. Benjamin Adler, Registration No. 35,423. Address all telephone calls to Dr. Benjamin Adler at telephone number 713/777-2321. Address correspondence to Dr. Benjamin Adler, MCGREGOR & ADLER, LLP, 8011 Candle Lane, Houston, TX 77071.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

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